Cost cut measures of Doordarshan

1910. SHRI PARMESHWER KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Doordarshan has been making cost cut measures;

(b) if so, what is the result of such measures; and

(c) whether as a part of such measures, any fresh appointments at a very high cost have been avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of austerity measures the expenditure in Prasar Bharati has been contained within the sanctioned budget only.

(c) Fresh engagements are being made on functional requirement basis.

Failure of Doordarshan to cover live Film Festival

1911. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention hajs been drawn to the news-item captioned DD fails again to cover film festival live as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 10th February, 2000;

(b) whether the Doordarshan could not cover the MIFF-2000 lyive at Mumbai in the month of February this year;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to revamp the functioning of Doordarshan to compete with other private channels?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) It has been intimated by Prasar Bharati that inaugural function of MIFF-2000 was covered live on DD-I on 5.2.2000 from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.. However, due to programme exigencies, the closing function could not be covered live on DD-I/ DD-II. The recording of the closing function was telecast on DD News Channel at 1 *i* .02 p.m. on 10.2.2000.